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MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY & POPEO, P.C.

ATTN: PATENT INTAKE CUSTOMER NO. 64280

ONE FINANCIAL CENTER

BOSTON, MA 02111

EXAMINER

KANG, INSUN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2193

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/04/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/609,126

Applicant(s)

KRUEGER, UWE

Examiner

INSUN KANG

Art Unit

2193

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/25/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-9, 12-14 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4-9, 12-14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responding to RCE amendment filed on 6/25/2008.
2. Claims 1, 4-9, 12-14, and 16 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Per claim 16, it is unclear to which first and second interfaces in lines 2-3 they are referring. Interpretation: the first interface; the second interface, respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 4-9, 12-14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang et al. ("A General Purpose Virtual Collaboration Room," IEEE, pages 1-10, 10/1999) hereafter "Huang" in view of Pirri et al. ("A Java applet-based

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virtual environment as a usable interface to distributed services and collaborative applications on the Internet," IEEE, 6/1999) hereafter Pirri.

Per claim 1:

Huang discloses:

-a virtual object space providing access to a plurality of objects, each object having a set of functionality and being identifiable by a unique identifier provided by the virtual object space (i.e. page 2, right col., paragraph 2) and providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects (i.e. page 2, right col., paragraph 1) including an associations and transactions functionality for relating objects and interaction between objects (i.e. page 3, section 2. An overview of the VCR, first paragraph, lines 1-7; page 2, right col., paragraph 2); a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space (i.e. page 9, left col., lines 1-20) ; and persistency functionality for maintaining persistency of the objects (i.e. page 5, right col., section 3.2 Object manipulation, paragraph 4);

Huang does not explicitly teach a first interface for applications using the plurality of objects and a second interface for services deploying the plurality of objects.

However, Pirri teaches providing an interface to distributed internet applications and services in a virtual collaboration environment was known in the pertinent art, at the time applicant's invention was made, to enable applications to use objects in the virtual space and distribute the objects (i.e. page 859, left col., second paragraph). It would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to modify Huang's disclosed system to incorporate the teachings of Pirri. The modification would be obvious because one

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having ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to allow distributed applications to access the virtual room in Huang and enable services to deploy the virtual objects.

Huang further discloses: the access being a virtual access provided using the unique identifier without physically storing the plurality of objects at the virtual object space (i.e. page 2, right col., paragraph 2); and a visualization framework for visualizing the plurality of objects independently of an application implementing the object, each object being visualized using the object's unique identifier and according to the object's corresponding set of functionality (i.e. Fig. 1; page 6, right col., second paragraph).

Per claim 4:

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further, Huang teaches:

-framework services providing common event handling of the plurality of objects(i.e. page 5, left col., lines 19-22).

Per claim 5:

Huang discloses:

- a virtual object space providing access to a plurality of objects, each object being identifiable by a unique identifier, providing generic object functionality for the plurality of objects(i.e. page 2, right col., paragraph 2) including an associations and transactions functionality for relating objects and interaction between objects (i.e. page 3, section 2. An overview of the VCR, first paragraph, lines 1-7; page 2, right col., paragraph 2); a distribution functionality for locking, flushing, and copying of the virtual object space (i.e. page 9, left col., lines 1-20); and persistency functionality for maintaining

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persistence of the objects (i.e. page 5, right col., section 3.2 Object manipulation, paragraph 4); a user interface for receiving input from a user relating to a desired arrangement of one or more of the plurality of objects ((i.e. Fig. 1; page 3, left col., section 2. An Overview of the VCR, first paragraph; lines 11-13).

and a visualization framework for visualizing objects according to the desired arrangement, each object being visualized using the object's unique identifier independently of an application implementing the object (i.e. Fig. 1; page 6, right col., second paragraph).

Per claim 6:

Huang further teaches:

- wherein the user interface further includes allowing a user to browse the plurality of objects independent of one or more applications implementing the objects (i.e. Fig. 1; page 3, left col., second paragraph, lines 1-6).

Per claim 7:

The rejection of claim 5 is incorporated, and further, Huang teaches:

- the desired arrangement is hierarchical (i.e. page 3, section 2. An overview of the VCR, first paragraph, lines 9-11).

Per claim 8:

The rejection of claim 5 is incorporated, and further, Huang teaches:

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- the visualization framework includes an object viewer(i.e. page 4, paragraph 2, lines 1-5, 13-19);

Per claim 13:

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and further, Huang teaches:

- providing a portlet to access the generic object functionality to visualize the structure of the plurality of objects(i.e. Fig 1 in page 4).

Per claims 9, 12, and 14, they are the method versions of claims 1, 4, 13 respectively, and are rejected for the same reasons set forth in connection with the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 13 above.

Per claim 16:

Pirri further discloses:

- implementing the plurality of objects to include a first interface accessible by the framework and a second interface accessible by a service acting as an adapter between the framework and an application separate from the framework (i.e. page 859, left col., second paragraph).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-9, 12-14, and 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to INSUN KANG whose telephone number is (571)272-3724. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lewis A. Bullock, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-3759. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Insun Kang/
Examiner, Art Unit 2193